

REMARKS

Amendments have been made to the specification in order to conform the specification to standard United States Patent practice.

Original claims 3, 15-19, 21 and 22 have been amended to eliminate the multiple dependencies and to conform the claims to standard United States practice.

An Abstract Of The Disclosure has been added as a separately typed page to be inserted after the claims.

Examination and allowance of claims 1-23 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP AMENDED SECTION HEADINGS

Page 1, section heading

[Background] **2) Description of the Prior Art**

Page 10, section heading

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION] **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIMS

3. (Amended) A private key protection system according to [claims 1 and 2] claim 1, wherein said signed digital data is a digital certificate.

15. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein said received digital data contains an instruction which determines how said encryption engine should encrypt or decrypt respectively.

16. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein said received digital data contains an instruction which determines which protocol is used by said device to communicate encrypted or signed data external of said device.

17. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein said display means is external to said device and controlled by said device for displaying data transmitted from said communications port.

18. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein said user operable input means is external to said device and controlled by said device to be actuated by said user in a predetermined manner.

19. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, further comprising identification and authentication means actuated by said user in a predetermined manner.

21. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein said digital private key storage means is removable from said device.

22. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein a cryptographic request is received from said external device according to a predetermined application programming interface, such that the request is performed by said PKPD using the user's private or other keys as identified by the request, but excluding the private key protection device with the result being transmitted to said external device or a predetermined destination included in said request or otherwise predetermined.